



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The Nancy Hanks Center
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20506-0001
202/682-5400

June 10, 1997

Wen-yi HUA
3148 8th Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006

Dear Ms. HUA:

In 1982, the Folk & Traditional Arts Program at the National Endowment for the Arts began a special effort to give national recognition to the contributions of outstanding folk and traditional artists across the nation. One good way to do this seemed to be to give out fellowship grants, and I am happy to tell you that the National Heritage Fellowship Advisory Panel and the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts have elected to offer you a 1997 National Heritage Fellowship. This means that you, as a master traditional artist, have been nominated for this honor by one or more fellow citizens, that you represent the very highest standards of performance in your particular art form, and that you are considered worthy of national recognition. A list of the artists to be honored in 1997 is enclosed, and I believe you will be pleased to see what good company you are in. Although a National Heritage Fellowship is offered only once to any particular artist, you will be glad to know that each year another group of similar artists will be so honored.

Our plans are not yet totally confirmed, but we hope to give out the fellowships during several days of events here in Washington, D.C. in the fall, on September 23-26. Each artist or duo receiving a fellowship will be invited to come to Washington D.C. at our expense and will be presented with a certificate and a \$10,000 cash award. (Actually it will be a check, rather than cash, which you may use in your work in any way you choose.) To help make things a bit more comfortable for you, you may bring one family member (or someone close to you) to Washington with you at our expense also. While we are unable to cover the expenses for additional family members, we will assist you in finding hotel rooms for anyone who wishes to come with you.

While you are here, we will all get together for a gala evening concert which we do each year, and I hope that you will agree to participate briefly. We will be talking with those of you who are performing artists about your needs in bringing additional musicians to perform with you and with those of you who work with crafts about the possibility of bringing a couple pieces of your work to show during your stay. Black and white portrait photos and slides of craftwork would also be helpful to us, if you have them. While our funds are limited, we do want to present you in the best possible light and will discuss this with you in greater detail by telephone. We will also plan a press conference and reception at a special location while you are here so that some of your federal elected representatives will have an opportunity to meet you as well.

We are in the process of notifying the Governor, Senators and Congressmen from your state about the honor that is being given to you, so you may hear from their offices as well.

I should add that it is not required for you to come to Washington to receive the award. The \$10,000 is yours to keep whether or not you participate in the festivities here, but we believe you will have a good time and do hope you will decide to come and join us and the other awardees for this very special occasion. We promise to do everything we can to make your visit here a truly memorable one for you.

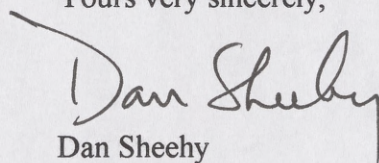
Currently, the IRS considers awards such as these income. Should receiving a lump sum of \$10,000 create a problem for you with any state or federal benefits you may be receiving, you may choose to stretch the payments out over a period of time. Please let us know as soon as possible if you do not wish to receive a payment for the entire amount at one time so we can discuss other arrangements with you.

We will need a formal acceptance of the award from you before we can begin the necessary paperwork involved in processing these fellowships. Please double check the information which we have typed on the forms for accuracy, sign the forms on the signature lines where a red checkmark indicates a signature is needed, and return them to us in the self-addressed envelope which we have enclosed. (There are three separate forms that you will need to sign and return to us.)

In the meantime, if you have any questions, you may call Pat Sanders, Barry Bergey, or me in this office (202/682-5428). We have retained the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) as our contractor for these events, and Madeline Remez of their staff (301/565-0654) will be in touch with you concerning airline reservations, hotel accommodations, and other matters related to your trip to Washington to receive the award.

I am very happy to be the one to bring you this news. Jane Alexander, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, joins with me in sending her warmest congratulations to you, and we look forward to seeing you in Washington.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Sheehy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "S".

Dan Sheehy
Director
Folk & Traditional Arts

P.S. I have enclosed additional information concerning the National Heritage Fellowships which you may enjoy reading.